(d) whether any scheme has been drawn up in this regard for Bihar for being implemented during the next three years and if so; what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Non-conventional Energy sources has taken up a programme of initial electrification of remote villages, mainly through the provision of solar streetlights and community lights as well as solar powered televisions. Such systems have been installed in about 800 villages in different parts of the country. Also, the Department is implementing Urja Gram projects (Energy self-sufficient village systems) utilising different non-conventional energy sources to meet the energy requirement in rural areas, 37 Urja Gram Projects have so far been completed and 37 projects are in various stages of implementation throughout the country.

(c) and (d) Based on the information available in the publication of Central Electricity Authority "Bulletin on power supply in the country" there is deficit on availability of power for rural areas of Bihar. The potential for utilising non-conventional sources of energy including rural electrification is high but the extent to which they are utilised depends on the availability of financial resources and local organizations for implementation of various programmes. The non-conventional energy development programme is a country-wide plan programme and projects are taken up in all states including Bihar on a year-to-year basis depending on availability of resources.

Water in LPG Cylinder

80. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints about the content of water in LPG cylinders;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what action has been taken in the matter against the defaulters;

(d) whether there is any proposal for the use of pilferage proof seals on the LPG cylinders and if so; what are the details in this regard; and

(e) by when such a system is proposed to be introduced throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BHAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) While no distributor has been caught in the act of filling water in LPG cylinders, some instances of the presence of water in LPG cylinders have come to the notice of the oil marketing companies.

(c) Any complaint regarding underweight cylinders or about the presence of water in filled cylinders is duly investigated and, if found true, suitable compensation is given to the consumers, in addition to action against distributors under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

(d) and (e) The Oil Industry is stepping up the use of pilfer-proof aluminium/PVC seals on the cylinders, in a phased manner but no definite time limit has been set for this.

Price of Natural Gas

81. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: